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DAILY

Kabul 04° Rainy | Kandahar 20° Rainy | Herat 15° Rainy | Jalalabad 13° Rainy | Mazar-e-Sharif 14° Rainy | Bamyan 1° Snow

Leader approves Pamir as Badakhshan's 29th district

KABUL: Shaikh Mullah Hebatullah Akhundzada, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, approved the establishment of the Pamir district in the country's northeastern province of Badakhshan, Office of the Administrative Affairs of the IEA said in a statement Monday.



Considering the strategic location of Pamir in Badakhshan and relying on the decree number (3265/458) of the Supreme Leader of the IEA, the new Pamir district will be established, the statement said.

Carving it out from the former Wakhan district, the degree directed relevant ministries to allocate staff and funding for the new district in the upcoming fiscal year budget. Badakhsan province is one of the 34 provinces of Afghanistan, located in the northeastern part of the country, bordering Tajikistan's Gorno-Badakhshan in the north and the Pakistani regions of Lower and Upper Chitral and Gilgit-Baltistan in the southeast.

The province also has Afghanistan's only border with China spanning 91 kilometers (57 miles) in the eastern side of the province via its Wakhan District. **The Kabul Times**

Impossible to survive without water, Deputy PM Beradar



KABUL: Mullah Abdul Ghani Beradar Akhund, the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Emirate, said Monday that water is an unparalleled blessing from Allah Almighty, without which the survival of humans, animals, and plants, as well as the economic growth and development of nations, would be impossible.

Addressing a three-day International Water Research Conference at the Loya Jirga Hall, Beradar said: "Islam mandates the responsible use of water in an Islamic society. Moreover, to compete globally, achieve economic progress, and safeguard the rights of future generations, sustainable and professional water management is an essential and significant national responsibility."

The deputy PM stated that although water is a renewable natural resource, it is increasingly becoming scarce due to climate change, rising water pollution, increasing human demand, and improper water usage.

Water resources are continuously depleting, which has negatively impacted political and economic relations among countries, he warned.

"Afghanistan possesses vast natural water resources and reserves. However, due to various reasons, there has not been a professional and national approach toward this immense blessing throughout the country's modern history. Therefore, it is now our collective responsibility to take fundamental steps toward effective water management by utilizing all available resources and means," Mullah Beradar said. The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is making efforts to ensure the proper utilization and management of the country's water resources, he further said, adding that a key example of these efforts is the excavation of the Qush Tepa Canal and the construction and rehabilitation of several dams.

See P4

Prime Minister's message on the International Water Research Conference



Water is the source of life and is considered one of the fundamental factors for the survival and development of human society.

In all countries, food security, public health, and economic growth are, in one way or another, dependent on water. It is well known that climate change, insufficient rainfall, devastating floods, and prolonged droughts have caused serious challenges on a global scale. Similarly, in our country, the uncontrolled extraction of groundwater not only weakens water sources but also has negative environmental and social consequences, posing a serious threat to meeting the water needs of future generations.

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan considers the proper management of water resources a crucial necessity. In particular, we are firmly committed to implementing specific policies to ensure the appropriate use of groundwater and mitigate the effects of climate change.

We believe that through the development and implementation of comprehensive solutions in water resource management, we can reduce pressure on water sources and safeguard this valuable trust for future generations.

This important conference provides a unique opportunity for all participants to present their views, research, and practical experiences regarding the management and protection of water resources so that they can contribute to finding effective solutions.

We urge all researchers and experts to use their knowledge and experience to help formulate effective policies and strategies for water management and reducing the impact of climate change.

Achieving this vital goal requires cooperation and coordination between various governmental institutions, universities, specialized centers, and the private sector.

Therefore, we call on all relevant stakeholders to fulfill their responsibilities in finding solutions to this issue.

A spirit of coordination and cooperation will aid in the implementation of decisions and prove beneficial in resolving challenges.

Finally, I assure the participants of this conference that the Islamic Emirate fully supports any initiative that is linked to the welfare and progress of our faithful nation. I also extend my gratitude to all those responsible for organizing this significant conference, facilitating its arrangements, and attending the event. May Allah Almighty accept their efforts.

Peace, mercy, and blessings of Allah be upon you.

Kabul, Baku stress expansion of bilateral relations

KABUL: Mohammad Naeem, the Finance and Administration Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Emirate, met with Ilham Muhammadov, the Azerbaijani Ambassador to Kabul, to discuss the expansion of relations between the two countries, the ministry said in a statement Monday.



Naeem appreciated the presence of the Afghan delegation at COP-29 and Azerbaijan's cooperation in this regard, according to the statement.

Ilham Muhammadov stressed the development of bilateral cooperation between Azerbaijan and Afghanistan and added that his country is keen to expand its relations with Kabul in various areas.

To step toward a positive interaction and create relationships with the Islamic Emirate, the Azerbaijani embassy is active in Kabul and it has also received Afghan diplomats in Baku, he said, assuring his country's further cooperation with Afghanistan in different fields.

The Kabul Times

IEA delegation in Iran to talk on countering narcotics

KABUL: The Counter-Narcotics Deputy Minister of Interior Affairs of the Islamic Emirate, Mullah Abdul Haq Akhund, and his accompanying delegation left for Iran to discuss countering drugs issues, the ministry said in a statement Monday.

The statement said that the delegation traveled to Iran based on an official invitation to discuss and exchange views and expand cooperation between the two countries in the field of fighting against drugs.

The Ministry of Interior Affairs of the Islamic Emirate has always been trying to fight against the cultivation and trafficking of narcotics nationwide.

The Kabul Times

Former government officials not acceptable to Afghan people, Fitrat

KABUL: Fasihuddin Fitrat, the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan said the other day that officials of the previous government are no longer acceptable to the people of Afghanistan.

Addressing a gathering in Badakhshan, Fitrat highlighted the Islamic Emirate's engagement at various levels with countries around the world, emphasizing that the Islamic Emirate seeks to expand its relations with the international community.

Commenting on the fifth meeting of political figures from the former government held in Vienna, he said: "With these meetings, they aim to confuse public opinion. They are well-known individuals whom the Afghan people no longer trust. It would be better for them to stop conspiring and spreading propaganda against the Islamic Emirate."

He further added that the current system is taking a serious approach to fostering closer ties with other countries, and currently, many nations are engaged in some form of interaction with the Islamic Emirate.

"Although no country has officially declared its recognition of the Islamic Emirate, the interactions taking place so far indicate that the Islamic Emirate holds its position in the world, and countries are engaging with it," he said.

The Chief of Staff of the Ministry of Defense rejected reports of ISIS presence and recruitment in northern Afghanistan, asserting that the group does not have the capability to disrupt the country's security. **The Kabul Times**

Kazakhstan keen to increase trade, transit relations with Afghanistan, ambassador

HERAT: The ambassador of Kazakhstan to Kabul, Gaziz Akbasov, in a meeting with Mawlavi Islamjar, the Governor of Herat province said Monday that increasing trade and transit relations with Afghanistan is on his country's agenda.

The ambassador said: "Increasing trade and transit relations with Afghanistan is one of the top priorities of Kazakhstan."

The provincial governor's press office said in a statement that Mawlavi Islamjar urged representatives of neighboring countries and Afghan businessmen to seize the opportunity to develop the economy and enhance trade and transit.

The meeting was attended by representatives of several consulates, officials from the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment, as well as traders and industrialists.

The Kabul Times



Polio vaccination campaign begins in provinces



KABUL: A four-day subnational polio vaccination campaign has been kicked off to vaccinate 6.3 million children under the age of 5 in 16 provinces of the country, the Ministry of Public Health of the Islamic Emirate said in a statement Monday.

The campaign is being launched in Kabul, Nangarhar, Laghman, Kunar, Nuristan, Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, Uruzgan, Paktia, Paktika, Khost, Ghazni, Baghlan, Herat and Badghis provinces.

The ministry in cooperation with its international health partners, is committed to jointly working toward eradicating polio across the country.

The ministry's officials urged the religious scholars and local elders to cooperate with vaccine providers to fight against polio, a debilitating disease that can lead to paralysis and death.

The public health minister urged families to vaccinate their children against the poliovirus to combat this virus effectively.

The campaign is being launched following the recent confirmation of the first positive polio case of 2025 in Bala Murghab district of Badghis province.

It is pertinent to mention that the polio virus causes permanent paralysis and, in some cases, even death, but vaccinating children can prevent contracting this disease.

Ziyarmal Hotak

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Food for thought

Today's generation guarantees our bright future

International community getting closer to Islamic Emirate

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is working hard to politically and economically tighten relations with the world countries and no place has remained for the former corrupt officials.

Afghanistan has experienced long decades of war, conflict, and bloodshed and suffered unforgettable patricide during the former corrupt regimes.

As the chief of staff of the Ministry of Defense of the Islamic Emirate asserted (on the fifth meeting of political figures from the former government held in Vienna), these individuals are no longer acceptable to the people of Afghanistan.

The country's chief of staff highlighted the Islamic Emirate government's engagement at various levels with countries around the world, emphasizing that the Islamic Emirate seeks to expand its relations with the international community.

Such meetings can do nothing against the Islamic system, as they aim to confuse public minds. "They are well-known individuals whom the Afghan people no longer trust. It would be better for them to stop conspiring and spreading propaganda against the Islamic Emirate."

The ruling Islamic system is taking a serious approach to fostering closer ties with other countries, and currently, many nations are engaged in some form of interaction with the Islamic Emirate.

Recognition of the Islamic Emirate by the International community would happen gradually, but the interactions taking place so far indicate that the Islamic Emirate holds its position in the world, and countries are engaging with the country under the Islamic system.

The framework of the Islamic Emirate is firm, strong, and unbreakable and claims about disagreements in the system members are a rumor and the people of Afghanistan are assured that no-post Islamic Emirate exists, as the entire Mujahidin and members of the current system have fought under one flag during the jihad against invaders and today, the same unity remains among them.

So, the people should support their system and stay alongside them under any condition.

Role of media in shaping public opinion

Part V

During this period, not only did the media fail to contribute to national unity and cohesion, but in some cases, they indirectly fueled ethnic and sectarian divisions. Certain media outlets served the interests of specific ethnic groups or factions, spreading discord instead of fostering national unity.



One of the major issues in Afghan media over the past two decades has been the lack of attention to productive, beneficial, cultural, and educational content. Television and radio programs were mostly dedicated to airing foreign serials and entertainment rather than producing useful and informative content. Media outlets paid little attention to promoting the national language and literature, Islamic values, Afghan history, and the country's rich culture. While people spent a significant portion of their time engaging with the media, these outlets were, in a way, poisoning their minds.

Afghanistan needed media platforms that could familiarize the younger generation with Islamic values, religious concepts, and their historical and cultural identity. However, media institutions only made minimal efforts in this regard, which were insufficient. The reality is that over the past two decades, Afghan media addressed cultural issues in the most superficial manner. Instead of focusing on indigenous values, they leaned towards non-Islamic cultural influences and dangerous concepts such as love affairs, premarital relationships, modeling, and other prohibited and un-Islamic matters. The negative consequences of these trends are now evident in society.

During this period, not only did the media fail to contribute to national unity and cohesion, but in some cases, they indirectly fueled ethnic and sectarian divisions. Certain media outlets served the interests of specific ethnic groups or factions, spreading discord instead of fostering national unity.

This approach not only weakened the foundations of social solidarity but also turned the media landscape into a battleground for verbal and propaganda warfare. The media's role in escalating ethnic, sectarian, regional, and political conflicts was undeniable.

Although Afghanistan's media law emphasized that media outlets should refrain from such divisive activities, some of them, influenced by their financial backers, prioritized their own interests over national unity and sometimes deliberately stoked these tensions.

The consequences of this policy are now manifesting in the most detrimental ways.

On the other hand, in today's world, media play a crucial role in promoting knowledge and technology. However, in Afghanistan, instead of focusing on scientific advancements, technology, and education, the media were largely preoccupied with politics, factional conflicts, and peripheral issues. The lack of scientific and educational programming led to Afghanistan's lagging behind in global scientific achievements, depriving the younger generation of opportunities for learning and innovation in modern sciences.

One of the key factors contributing to the weakness of Afghan media over the past two decades was the absence of experienced managers and well-trained journalists. Many media managers lacked knowledge of sociology, history, religious matters, and media management principles. Instead, they merely used colorful slogans such as freedom, non-censorship, information dissemination, and media security without genuinely understanding these concepts in depth.

Journalists, lacking sufficient knowledge of journalism and media ethics, often entered the field after completing short three-month or six-month training courses. As a result, they worked in an unprofessional and unfamiliar manner, failing to adhere to the principles of journalism. Instead of delivering accurate and impartial reports, they contributed to the spread of baseless news and rumors.

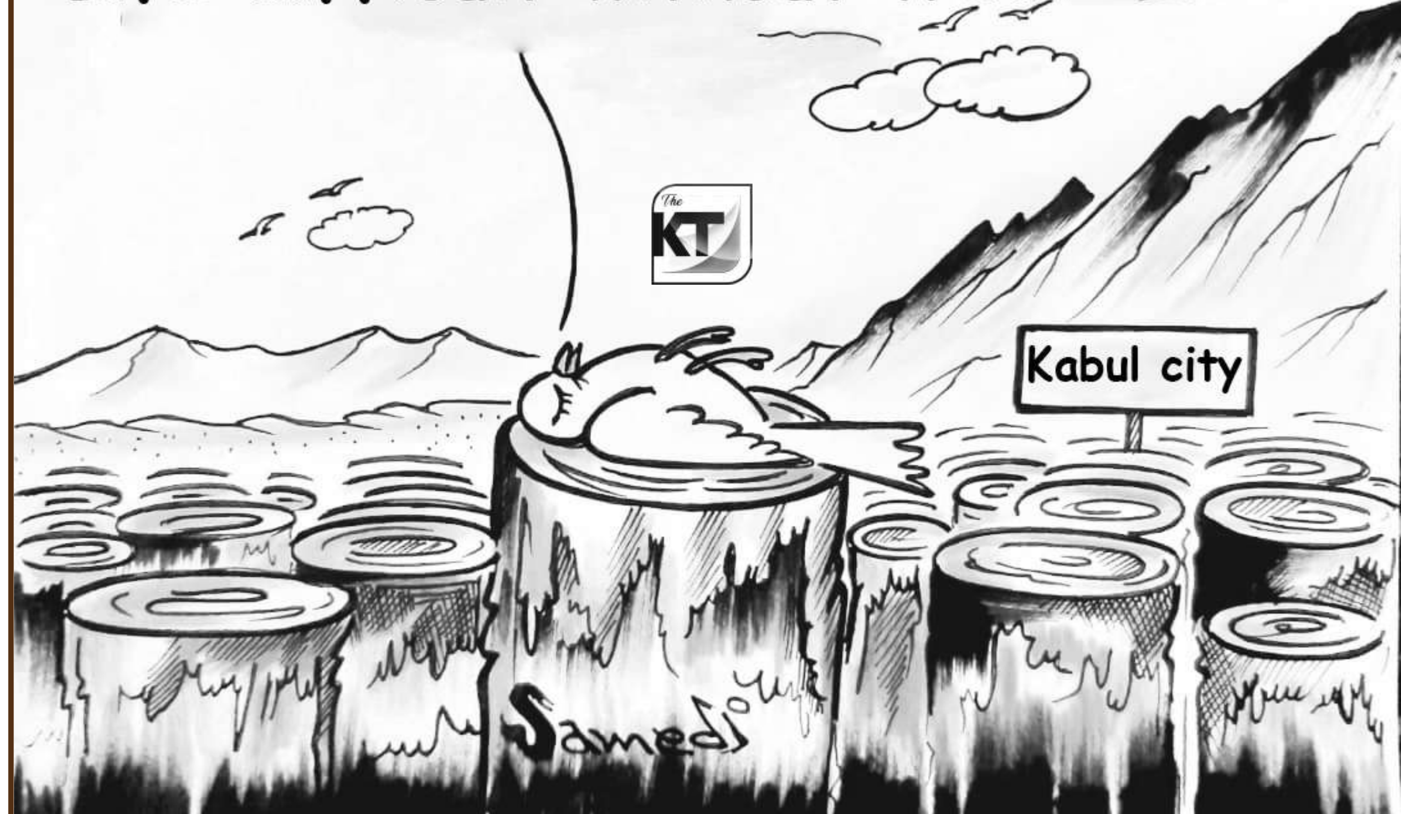
Furthermore, the general public also lacked sufficient media literacy, making it difficult for them to distinguish between accurate and misleading information. This deficiency created an environment where misinformation could easily spread and mislead society.

In conclusion, Afghan media had a significant opportunity for development and public awareness over the past twenty years. However, due to financial dependencies, political bias, media corruption, the absence of in-depth analysis and valuable content, and the lack of professional management and expertise, they failed to play an effective role.

Although there were favorable opportunities during this period, instead of being utilized for public awareness and development, they were often used to serve the interests of specific groups.

Today, there is an urgent need for fundamental reforms in the media sector, focusing on media independence, professionalism, cultural and educational promotion, and the establishment of impartial regulatory bodies. Only under these conditions can the media fulfill their true mission of informing and enlightening society.

FiroozAhmad Ebrahemi



Efforts to reduce traffic accidents in Zabul show positive outcomes



Since the end of the war in Afghanistan, the rate of traffic accidents has increased, causing daily casualties among civilians in various provinces of the country.

Although traffic accidents have surged, responsible institutions of the Islamic Emirate have recently intensified efforts to prevent them in different provinces.

Officials in the southern province of Zabul say they have increased efforts to reduce traffic accidents and have managed to lower the rate significantly through the implementation of various initiatives.

The Zabul provincial police command states that since the Islamic Emirate took power, they have established 61 training courses in the province to educate vehicle owners.

Zabiullah Jawhar, the spokesperson for the Zabul police command, says that through these courses, they have trained 6,500 people.

He adds that during this period, they have issued driving permits to 4,648 individuals and temporary and general license plates to 1,280 vehicles.

Jawhar states, "Traffic accidents in Zabul province are now largely under control.

The reason is that since the beginning of the Islamic Emirate's rule, 61 driving courses have been held, in which 6,500 people have participated. In addition, 1,280 vehicles have also been registered in Zabul province."

Meanwhile, several drivers say that compared to the past, the rate of traffic accidents in the province has decreased due to the training provided to motorists.

Hassan Khan, a driver from Qalat, the capital of Zabul province, says that currently, most highway and city drivers in Zabul have valid vehicle documents.

He states, "I personally have driving documents. Now, compared to before, traffic accidents have significantly decreased. More people are now learning to drive and obtaining legal documents to operate vehicles.

This is a very beneficial initiative launched by the Islamic Emirate."

Residents of Zabul province are also pleased with the implementation of such initiatives and call for similar efforts to be undertaken in other provinces to prevent traffic accidents.

Abdul Wali, a resident of Zabul, says that although traffic accidents have decreased in the province, the government must punish all individuals who drive recklessly.

He adds, "The Islamic Emirate has implemented very good initiatives to prevent traffic accidents, but such measures should be permanent and extended to other provinces as well. Those who drive irresponsibly should face severe punishment."

Some social activists believe that a lack of public awareness and reckless driving are major causes of increased traffic accidents in the country.

Ahmad Mubariz, a social activist, told The Kabul Times that in the southern provinces of Afghanistan, some families still allow their underage children to drive.

He says that efforts should be made to raise public awareness about the dangers of reckless driving so that people refrain from such behavior.

He adds, "The main problem is the lack of public awareness. Many families have given vehicles to their underage sons, which often results in traffic accidents. We must learn from past mistakes, and the government should take strict action against violators."

Officials from Zabul's traffic management department say that revenue from issuing vehicle and driving documents has reached 30 million Afghanis.

Apart from Zabul, training programs for vehicle drivers have recently been launched in several provinces of Afghanistan.

Ehsanullah Wolasmal

Orders, obedience; two significant elements in good governance

One of the keys to the development and success of governments and systems is obedience, better management, and strengthening order in institutions.

A system with order and management and where obedience is important will witness further progress and development. Unfortunately, for almost half a century, Afghanistan has witnessed governments and systems that lacked order and obedience and have mostly witnessed disorder and factionalism.

Since the military aggression of foreigners and the wars of nature and organization began in Afghanistan, there has been no better administrative order and structure, and an atmosphere of autocracy, monopolization, and disorder has always prevailed in the country's administrations.

Particularly, during 20 years of occupation of Afghanistan by the U.S. and NATO, the atmosphere in government offices was completely transformed, and whoever came to a position of government from whatever address worked for their own benefit and that of their patron, and the atmosphere of authority, mission, and service to the country and the nation was very less.

For example, in the early days of the occupation, a culture of commandership prevailed in government departments, and towards the end of the occupation, a bipolar atmosphere and islands of power prevailed in the departments.

This atmosphere of one roof and two winds had damaged the prestige of government departments and had also reduced the status of government officials to zero.

Now that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has been established, order and obedience have improved greatly, and with each passing day, order is significantly improved in the country's administrations.

But, efforts should still be made to give importance to order, management, and the status of those with rank and status in society, so that shortly we may witness unparalleled order in our administrations and continue to witness the development and prosperity of our country in its best possible way. Sayed Sharif



Work on Surkhab water dam completed in Logar

KABUL: The Maintenance work of the Surkhab water dam worth 11 million Afghani has been completed in Logar province, the Ministry of Water and Energy said in a statement Monday.

Addressing a ceremony, Mullah Abdul Latif Mansour, the acting Minister of Water and Energy, called the importance of the dam vital for the residents of the Mohammad Agha district of the province.

The Islamic Emirate has been making efforts day and night for the country's development and reconstruction and has implemented many projects in different sectors over the past three years.

The dam, with a capacity of 9 million cubic meters of water, will irrigate 3,000 hectares of agricultural land, benefiting 9,000 families directly and indirectly. **The Kabul Times**

Climate change, air pollution remain big challenges

The world's glaciers lost ice at the rate of about 255 billion tons (231 billion metric tons) annually from 2000 to 2011, but that quickened to about 346 billion tons (314 billion metric tons) annually over about the next decade, according to the study in this week's journal Nature.

Reports recently have warned that climate change is rapidly shrinking glaciers. It is happening faster than ever, with 7 trillion tons lost since 2000.

Climate change is accelerating the melting of the world's mountain glaciers, according to a massive new study that found them shrinking more than twice as fast as in the early 2000s, as Associated Press reported.

The world's glaciers lost ice at the rate of about 255 billion tons (231 billion metric tons) annually from 2000 to 2011, but that quickened to about 346 billion tons (314 billion metric tons) annually over about the next decade, according to the study in this week's journal Nature.

In the last few years, the melt has accelerated even more, hitting a record 604 billion tons (548 billion metric tons) lost in 2023, the last year analyzed.

The study drew on an international effort that included 233 estimates of changes in glacier weight.

In all, the world's glaciers have lost more than 7 trillion tons of ice (6.5 trillion metric tons) since 2000, according to the study.

"The thing that people should be aware of and perhaps worried about is that yes, the glaciers are indeed retreating and disappearing as we said they would.

The rate of that loss seems to be accelerating," said William Colgan, a glaciologist for the study found.

In the past 24 years, Central Europe's glaciers have lost the highest percentage of ice of any region, now 39% smaller than they were in 2000, the paper said. Colgan said he pretty darn quick."

On the other hand, air pollution has frustrated nations worldwide, and bypassing every day, the challenge is increasing, particularly in certain countries like Afghanistan and



the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland and one of about 60 authors of the study.

Glaciers in Alaska are melting at the fastest rate of any of the 19 regions studied, losing about 67 billion tons (61 billion metric tons) of ice a year, producing the biggest net ice loss, worries most about the Alps because "elevated summer temperatures have been.

The more than 600 billion tons of glacier loss in 2023 "sounds incredible now, but it might sound pretty normal 10 years from now," Colgan said. "Mountain glaciers as a whole can flip into collective ice loss similar advanced countries.

Increase in the number of machineries, using dense smoke-producing and out-of-date vehicles and non-obsercance of the people's hygienic tips can be counted among the most harmful and devastating elements in the country.

Mukhtar Safi

Over 412,880 tons of goods transported via railway in past month

KABUL: The Ministry of Public Works of the Islamic Emirate said Monday in a statement that 412,883 tons of commodities have been traded via the country's railways in the past one month of the outgoing solar year.

The commodities have been traded via Hairatan port, Aqina port, Torghundi and Khaf-Herat railway in the past one month of the solar year, the statement said, adding that 36,728 tons included Afghanistan's exports, most of them were dried fruits, rice, citrus and pomegranate juice and potato.

As the level of export and import increases through the railway, more job opportunities will be provided, national income will increase, and the way to economic stability, development, and self-sufficiency will be provided.

The Ministry of Public Works has always been trying to provide suitable conditions for transfers and more facilities for traders, the statement added, saying that nearly 3.2 million metric tons of transportation have been done through the country's railways within the past 9 months of the current solar year.

The Kabul Times



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USD	GBP	INR	PKR	EUR	IRR	AED
01	01	1000	1000	01	1000	01
AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN
73.85	93.53	852	254	77.28	01.34	20.12



National Sports Administration delegation visits Nangarhar to assess projects



A high-level delegation from the General Directorate of the National Olympic Committee, Physical Education, and Sports visited Nangarhar province as part of their ongoing tours to the southern and eastern provinces.

During the visit, the delegation inspected unfinished sports projects and facilities, assessing their progress and identifying obstacles preventing their completion. In addition, they held discussions with local sports officials, representatives from the Revenue Department, relevant governmental institutions, and contracting companies to address outstanding debts and other financial challenges affecting these projects.

The delegation was composed of officials from the departments of Planning and Policy, Finance and Administration, Internal Audit, and Procurement, along with representatives from the Ministry of Finance. The delegation was led by Sayed Rasool Afghani, the legal advisor to the National Sports Administration.

The visit aimed to ensure transparency, accountability, and efficient resource allocation for the development of sports infrastructure in Nangarhar.

The delegation emphasized the importance of resolving financial issues and expediting project completion to enhance sports facilities for athletes and the youth.

This initiative is part of the government's broader efforts to revitalize the sports sector, promote physical education, and support athletes across the country. Further assessments and follow-ups are expected in the coming months to monitor progress and ensure timely completion of the projects.

The Kabul Times

India secures dominant six-wicket win over Pakistan in Champions Trophy 2025



In a thrilling group-stage match of the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy, India secured a commanding six-wicket victory over arch-rivals Pakistan at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

Pakistan, opting to bat first, posted a total of 241 runs in 50 overs. Saud Shakeel played a crucial knock, scoring 62 runs, while wicketkeeper-batsman Mohammad Rizwan contributed 46 runs, helping Pakistan set a competitive target. However, India's disciplined bowling attack restricted further damage. Kuldeep Yadav was the pick of the bowlers, claiming three wickets, while Hardik Pandya took two crucial scalps to keep Pakistan in check.

Chasing 242 runs for victory, India's batting lineup delivered a strong performance. Star batter Virat Kohli led the charge, scoring a match-winning century, guiding his team to a comfortable win.

With India reaching 244 runs, they successfully chased the target within their allotted overs.

This defeat marks Pakistan's second consecutive loss in the tournament. In their opening game, they suffered a 60-run defeat against New Zealand.

Meanwhile, India started their campaign with a victory against Bangladesh, maintaining their unbeaten run in the competition.

With this win, India has strengthened its position in the group standings, while Pakistan, the defending champions, now face a tough road ahead in their bid to qualify for the knockout stages. The team must regroup and deliver improved performances in the remaining matches to keep their title defense alive.

The Kabul Times

Capacity-building seminar for water sports professionals held in Balkh

The Water Sports Federation successfully organized a one-day seminar focused on enhancing the capacity of coaches, referees, and lifeguards in Balkh province. The seminar aimed to improve the technical and managerial skills of participants involved in this field.

More than ten participants from the provincial center of Balkh attended the training session, where they received valuable insights and practical knowledge relevant to their roles. The event served as a platform for skill development and knowledge-sharing among professionals in water sports.

The primary objective of this seminar was to enhance the capabilities of coaches, referees, and lifeguards, ensuring they are better equipped to handle their responsibilities. Through interactive sessions and expert guidance, attendees gained a deeper understanding of modern techniques, safety protocols, and best practices in water sports management.

By the end of the training, participants expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to upgrade their skills. Such initiatives play a crucial role in improving the overall standards of water sports in Afghanistan, contributing to a safer and more professional sporting environment.

The Water Sports Federation emphasized the importance of continued training programs to further develop the expertise of sports professionals. Organizers highlighted that similar capacity-building initiatives would be conducted in other provinces to expand knowledge and strengthen the foundation of water sports across the country. With the successful completion of this seminar, the Federation reaffirmed its commitment to promoting excellence and safety in water sports through education and professional development.

The Kabul Times

Russia says ceasefire without long-term settlement in Ukraine unacceptable



Russia wants a long-term peace deal over Ukraine that tackles what it regards as the root causes of the conflict and not a quick US-backed ceasefire followed by a swift restart of fighting, a senior Russian diplomat told the RIA news agency.

In an interview released on Monday, the third anniversary of tens of thousands of Russian troops crossing into Ukraine at the orders of President Vladimir Putin, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said Moscow was after a Ukraine deal that stood the test of time.

"We can recognize with sufficient confidence the desire of the American side to move towards a quick ceasefire," RIA cited Ryabkov as saying.

"But ... a ceasefire without a long-term settlement is the path to a swift resumption of fighting and a resumption of the conflict with even more serious consequences, including consequences for Russian-American relations. We do not want this.

"We need to find a long-term solution, which, in turn, must necessarily include an element of overcoming the root causes of what has been happening in and around Ukraine," said Ryabkov.

Russia-US talks held in Riyadh last week, which Moscow has said agreed to work on restoring bilateral ties and preparing for Ukraine talks, did not offer greater clarity about President Donald Trump's peace plan for Ukraine, Ryabkov said.

He repeated Moscow's stance that it had no choice but to launch what it calls its "special military operation" in Ukraine - something Ukraine and the West call a brutal colonial-style war of conquest - because of what he said was the NATO alliance's "unrestrained" eastwards expansion. He also complained about what he called the trampling of the rights of the Russian-speaking population in Ukraine, repeating an allegation which Kyiv denies.

Alarabiya

Japan, Philippines to boost military ties amid 'severe' environment



Japan and the Philippines have agreed to boost military cooperation amid mutual concern over China's growing assertiveness in the region.

Japanese Defence Minister Gen Nakatani and Philippine Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro, Jr said on Monday they had agreed to establish a "strategic dialogue" between their countries' militaries and a "high-level framework" for defence equipment and technology cooperation.

Speaking at a news conference to mark the conclusion of a two-day visit to the Philippines, Nakatani said he and Teodoro agreed on the need to enhance cooperation to "maintain peace and stability" in the region.

"We firmly concurred that the security environment surrounding us is becoming increasingly severe and that it is necessary for our two countries, as strategic partners, to further enhance defence cooperation and collaboration in order to maintain peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific under such a situation," Nakatani told reporters.

Before the meeting on Monday, Teodoro said the two countries shared the common cause of opposing "unilateral attempts by China and other countries to change the international order and the narrative". Japan and the Philippines, which have mutual defence treaties with the United States, have been among the most vocal critics of Beijing's efforts to exert control over the South China Sea, which is estimated to carry about one-third of global shipping. China has laid claim to more than 90 percent of the waterway, where the Philippines, Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei all have competing territorial claims.

A 2016 ruling by an international tribunal at The Hague found that Beijing had no legal justification for its claims and that it had violated international law by harming the natural environment and interfering with Philippine fishing and oil exploration.

Beijing said at the time it did not "accept or recognise" the ruling, calling it "invalid".

Last week, the Philippine Presidential Office for Maritime Concerns accused the Chinese navy of endangering lives after it flew a helicopter within 3 metres (10 feet) of a surveillance plane carrying journalists over the disputed Scarborough Shoal.

Aljazeera

From P1

Impossible to survive without water, ...

The Deputy PM emphasized the importance of this conference in promoting effective water management, acknowledging the participation of university professors and water specialists in sharing their research papers and experiences and urging them to conduct further in-depth research in this field.

It should be said that the International Water Research Conference has been organized by the Ministry of Higher Education and Kabul Polytechnic University for three days and a total of 135 research papers will be presented during the conference.

The primary objectives of the conference include improving water management in the country, replenishing underground water resources, ensuring proper utilization of water, and preventing water pollution.

The conference has brought together officials from government institutions, professors from prestigious foreign universities, representatives of international organizations, and domestic and international experts in water management.

The Kabul Times

Syria's leader invited to Arab League meeting on Gaza

Syria's President Ahmed al-Sharaa received an invitation on Sunday to attend an Egyptian-hosted Arab League meeting on Gaza, the Syrian presidency said.

"The president of the Syrian Arab Republic, Mr Ahmed al-Sharaa, received an official invitation from the president of the Arab Republic of Egypt... to participate in the extraordinary Arab League summit" on March 4 in Cairo, the presidency statement said.

The meeting was called in response to a widely criticised plan by US President Donald Trump, who has said his government should take over the war-battered Gaza Strip and redevelop it into the "Riviera of the Middle East."

Its Palestinian inhabitants, according to Trump's plan, would move elsewhere, including to Egypt and Jordan.

Trump's plan sparked an outcry from Arab governments as well as other world leaders, and the United Nations warned against "ethnic cleansing" in the Palestinian territory.

Al-Sharaa has called Trump's plan "a very huge crime that cannot happen."

Syria under former president Bashar al-Assad was suspended from the Arab League in 2011 over his brutal crackdown on pro-democracy protests which spiraled into a devastating war.

Damascus was allowed to return to the regional bloc in 2023.

Late last year, a coalition spearheaded by al-Sharaa's extremist group "Hayat Tahrir al-Sham" toppled al-Assad in a lightning offensive. He was named interim president soon after.

Egypt backed al-Assad until the end, even as al-Sharaa's "Hayat Tahrir al-Sham" closed in on Damascus, though it has engaged carefully with Syria since his fall.

The Cairo meeting next month would be the first time al-Sharaa represents Syria in the Arab League. **Alarabiya**

UK and India to relaunch trade talks in Delhi

India and the UK will restart free trade talks on Monday, nearly a year after negotiations were paused ahead of general elections in both countries.

Jonathan Reynolds, the UK's business and trade secretary, is in Delhi, where he will meet his Indian counterpart Piyush Goyal to kick off the two-day discussions.

Ahead of the meeting, Reynolds said it was a "no-brainer" to seek a trade deal with India, which was forecast to become the world's third-largest economy in a few years.

The countries have held more than a dozen rounds of negotiations since 2022, but an agreement has remained out of reach.

Sticking points include high tariffs in India on Scotch whisky and demands to relax fees and visa rules for Indian students and professionals going to the UK.

Talks are being held for the first time after the Labour Party came to power in the UK and Reynolds says securing a deal is a "top priority" for his government.

"Growth will be the guiding principle in our trade negotiations with India and I'm excited about the opportunities on offer in this vibrant market," he said in a statement.

For Delhi, the trade talks have assumed renewed significance on the back of US President Donald Trump's decision to impose reciprocal or tit-for-tat tariffs on imported goods from countries, including India.

The UK is also a high-priority trading partner for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, which has an ambitious target to grow exports by $1 trillion by FY30. The UK had announced in November last year - soon after Sir Keir Starmer met PM Modi at the G20 summit in Brazil - that talks would restart in the new year.

The two countries share a trade relationship worth £41bn ($52bn) currently, according to a UK government statement, and a trade deal could unlock new opportunities for both countries.

BBC